

Here is a simple guide to help your family pray together.



Pray for **FAMILY MEMBERS.**



Pray for your **NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS.**



Pray for **OUR CHURCH.**



Pray for **OUR MISSIONARIES.**



Pray for **PEOPLE WE KNOW WHO DON'T KNOW JESUS.**



Pray for **OUR GOVERNMENT AND LEADERS.**



Pray for **OTHER CHRISTIANS AROUND THE WORLD**—especially those who are treated badly because they are followers of Jesus.

For questions, contact:

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Church and Family Partnering Together



Today's Big Idea

Paul Made Much of Jesus
Colossians 1:15–2:3



The Main Point

Jesus is better than anyone or anything else.



What Did We Learn?

- ▶ Paul felt joy even in difficult circumstances.
- ▶ Paul talked about Jesus no matter where he was.
- ▶ Paul wanted everyone to know and love Jesus.
- ▶ Jesus is better than anyone or anything else.

TODAY'S CHRIST CONNECTION

Paul encouraged believers by reminding them that Jesus is great. Jesus is God's Son, and He died on the cross to rescue people from sin. The Gospel is true, and Jesus is all we need.



LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY

Open your Bible to Philemon 8–22 and read together as a family about when Paul told Philemon to forgive his servant as a Christian brother. Or read the children's version of the passage below.

When Paul was a prisoner in Rome, he met a man named Onesimus. Onesimus was a servant. He had run away from his owner, Philemon.

Paul told Onesimus the Good News about Jesus, and Onesimus believed in Jesus. Paul knew Onesimus needed to go back to Philemon and ask for forgiveness. So Paul wrote a letter and told Onesimus to take the letter back to Philemon.

“Dear Philemon, I want you to do the right thing. I met Onesimus and told him about Jesus, and he believed.

“Maybe this is why he left you for a little while—so that he could come back to you as a brother instead of a servant. He is our friend and brother in Christ. Please welcome him like you would welcome me. If he owes you anything, I will pay it.

DISCUSSION STARTERS

- ▶ Why did Paul ask Philemon to treat Onesimus as a brother?
- ▶ What did Paul offer to do for Onesimus?
- ▶ Who paid our debts to God?

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Have a family dinner. Take turns serving by bringing drinks, delivering food, and so on. Compare and contrast how it would feel to be a servant and to be part of the family.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Paul offered to pay Onesimus's debt to make peace between him and Philemon. In this way, Paul acted like Jesus, who makes peace between God and man. Jesus took the punishment we deserve for our sin. He paid our debt so that we can be forgiven and welcomed by God.

BIBLE READING THROUGH THE WEEK

Take time this week to read the Bible together as a family. Breakfast, dinner, or bedtime—you choose when and where.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Philemon 8–10	Philemon 11–12	Philemon 13–16	Philemon 17–20	Philemon 21–22

As you read, ask these questions:

- ▶ What is God teaching us?
- ▶ What does this show us about who God is?
- ▶ What do we need to ask God's help for to change?
- ▶ How would you share this with a friend?

UNIT MEMORY VERSE

Forgive as the Lord forgave you. — Colossians 3:13